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TO REMOVE CONVICTS

FROM MINES TO ROADS
Birmingham, Ala., July 12.—Senator Frank S. White, president of the Alabama Convicts Improvement Association, will make a strong appeal to the executive committee which met today, to bring influence upon the legislature which has just convened, to do away with the convict lease system and transfer the convicts from the mines to the highways. It is considered likely that the legislature of this state will adopt the convict regulations of the state of Georgia. Some of the senators have visited Georgia and studied the methods pursued by that state in handling its convicts and express satisfaction with conditions found there.

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TWO DROWN IN PRESENCE OF SCORE OF SPECTATORS

Little Rock, Ark., July 12.—Although he could not swim, William D. Bard, local wire chief of the Western Union Telegraph Company, unhesitatingly went to the rescue of a drowning girl in Saline River, near Benton, twenty miles from Little Rock, this afternoon. Both he, and the girl, Miss Elsie Busick of Belfast, Ark., drowned in sight of a score of picnickers.

Miss Busick was visiting her brother at Benton, and with several companions was bathing. She got into deep water and screamed for help. Bard was nearest her and started toward her immediately. Several boys also started to the girl's assistance, but she sank while one of them was less than a yard from her. In the excitement Bard was forgotten, and when he finally was remembered, he had disappeared. Both bodies were recovered an hour later. Bard's wife and 13-year-old son were near by, but did not witness the tragedy. Bard had been in the employ of the Western Union for thirty years, twenty-seven of them in Little Rock.

SUCCESS OF A MEDICINE

All things succeed which fill a real need; that a doctor is kept busy day and night proves his ability and skill; that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is sold in enormous quantities in almost every city, town and hamlet in America and in foreign countries as well proves its merit, and women are found everywhere who tell of health restored by its use.

MARSDEN NOTES

Marsden, Okla., July 12.—The fair weather continues to be favorable to the crops. Farmers are in the field cleaning out their cotton or saving their grain and hay.

M. J. Pittman, who is running his thrasher on the Pittman prairie, says the grain is not damaged as was first thought.

We have a bumper corn and feed crop practically made.

Cotton is not so promising. The plant is small, but it has plenty of time to make a good crop yet.

Both of our Sunday schools are doing nicely.

Dr. Jackson reports quite a lot of sickness.

The new high school district has voted twenty-five hundred dollars bonds to build a nice three-room school building.

Prof. E. A. Murchison has secured an eight months' school at Arbuckle in Murray county.

Rev. Brad Hayes of Woodford and J. H. Perkins of Hastings, Okla., will begin a protracted meeting for the Baptist church here Saturday.

Traveling Man's Experience.
"In the summer of 1888 I had a very severe attack of cholera morbus. Two physicians worked over me from four a. m. to six p. m. without giving me any relief and then told me they did not expect me to live; that I had best telegraph for my family. Instead of doing so, I gave the hotel porter fifty cents and told him to buy me a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and take no substitute. I took a double dose according to the directions and went to sleep after the second dose. At five o'clock the next morning I was called by my order and took a train for my next stopping point, a well man but feeling rather shaky from the severity of the attack," writes H. W. Ireland, Louisville, Ky. Obtainable everywhere.

WOMAN SAYS SHE WITNESSED BODIES BURIED

MRS. PORTER WILL BE CHIEF WITNESS FOR PROSECUTION IN CASES RECENTLY BROUGHT TO LIGHT.

Quitman, Mo., July 12.—Mrs. Maria Porter, who as a girl washed the bloody quilt which a band of counterfeiters had wrapped about the body of a rich cattleman they murdered in Siam, Iowa, in 1865, today told the story of events that led up to the crime, described the hiding of the chest containing a large sum of money which the cattleman possessed, related the shooting of Jonathan Dark, her brother-in-law and a member of the gang, by his wife following a dispute over the treasure, and declared she had held the secret so many years because she feared the threats made by the murderers the night of the crime, that they "would wash their hands in my blood," would be fulfilled if she talked. Mrs. Porter is going back to Redford, Iowa, Tuesday, to testify at the trial of the four men held there in connection with the murders.

Saw Men Carrying Body.

Mrs. Porter, whose maiden name was Collins, told how Jonathan Dark, one of five counterfeiters who lived in a cave near her old home, married one of her sisters, and how, one night, early in September, 1865, she was awakened about midnight, left the house to investigate and saw five men carrying something wrapped in a quilt, come down the road in the moonlight.

"They saw me," said Mrs. Porter, "and told me that if I ever told what I had seen they would 'wash their hands in my heart's blood.' I was terrified and promised to keep their secret. They put the body in an old well near the house and then came back and made me wash the quilt which had been wrapped about the body, and then their clothing, which had become blood bespattered.

"In the moonlight I saw a wagon drawn by oxen standing in the road. In the wagon was a chest. The men took the team away and I afterward found out they had buried the chest in a locust grove. The body of a boy who was with the cattle buyer also was buried in a shallow grave near the same spot.

"From the night of the murder until about twenty years ago I never told a soul about the murder, fearing if I did so some member of the gang would kill me. About twenty years ago I told my husband."

Came to Missouri Long Ago.

Some time after the murder, Mrs. Porter and an elder sister came to Missouri, to Quitman, their present home, where Mrs. Porter has lived more than forty years. It was after they had gone to Quitman that Jonathan Dark, her brother-in-law, became fearful lest the secret would become known and came to the house to kill her, she says.

"Dark said he would kill me," Mrs. Porter said. "My sister took my part and as he reached for his pistol she shot him. Dark died with his head in my lap."

About twenty years ago, Mrs. Porter says, the family became acquainted with Samuel Anderson, who now owns the farm near Siam, Iowa, where the counterfeiters buried the chest. Anderson heard of the burial of the money and that Mrs. Porter knew something about it. Anderson's son married Mrs. Porter's daughter.

Mrs. Porter says Anderson persuaded her to tell secret to her husband. She says Anderson tried for fifteen years to locate the treasure chest and was not successful. Her story is vouched for by the son, John Anderson.

"It is not true that I told Frank James about the treasure chest," Mrs. Porter asserted. "I know the James boys but I never told them. I didn't tell anybody but my husband, and that was twenty years ago."

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REVIEWS WORK STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONER W. G. ASHTON TELLS HOW HARVEST WORKERS WERE PLACED—ALL WHO WANTED WORK GOT IT.

Oklahoma City, July 12.—In a review of the harvest labor activities of his department, W. G. Ashton, state labor commissioner, points to the records of his office to show that 16,659 men were placed in the Oklahoma wheat fields through that office and the state free employment bureaus under its control. The expense of the work was about \$1,190. The men placed directly by the department numbered 9,993; 1,681 were placed from the office at Enid, 351 from El Reno, 1,450 from Oklahoma City, 150 from Frederick, 200 from Clinton, 1,200 from Alva, 4,496 from Woodward and 182 from Tulsa. These men were paid from \$2 to \$3 per day. This was the figure the farmers had said they would be willing to pay.

Mr. Ashton says the excessive rains that came just before harvest time and continued for almost a month, delayed the harvest and set at naught all calculations that had been made as to when it would begin. Despite this, however, the men who came to get work got it, and there was no hardship among them greater than is to be expected such as getting ready for harvest labor. He said:

Hoboes Proved a Menace.

"Probably the worst menace to the entire situation was the influx of hoboes, stockyard bums and Industrial Workers of the World. The latter, of course, were more active and accomplished more by reason of their having an organization, but I am wondering if there are not thousands of men throughout the country today who wish they had the dollar back that they parted with to join this organization. From the best information we could obtain it seemed that their original program was to flock into the state, organize the harvest hands and attempt to pull off a general strike in an effort to force the farmers to pay more money than they had advertised they would pay, but after weather conditions became so bad, they seem to have changed their tactics, and instead of destroying property and trying to incite a general strike they would flock into different localities of the state in great numbers and attempt to discourage all legitimate harvest hands by trying to convince them that there was a great surplus of labor in the state and that thousands of men would not and could not be given employment. They succeeded in a measure and caused many a good man to go back home, but the fact that all who have asked for work were given work is a sufficient explanation and a sufficient assurance that there was not a real surplus of labor in Oklahoma.

"Aside from the main line of the Rock Island, from El Reno north, we have had very little complaint about too much labor. Our investigation showed that before the cutting in many localities there were many men but, as stated, these men seemed to be hoboes and left town about the time work was ready. Further than this, we have had but few complaints and where there was a surplus reported it was only a few men, and these were sent to other points in the state. The main line of the Rock Island was flooded with men at all times, but even in this army all who wanted to work were employed."

Some Didn't Want Work.

The number of men who did not want work at all was noted by the commissioner of labor in his trips over the state. He was impressed by the manner in which these men evaded the test when the time came to make good on their demands for employment.

"It was an interesting incident," he said, "when a citizen of Guthrie became kind hearted at Enid and fed something like eighty-five of these individuals. In looking over the bunch, I discovered many familiar faces, most of them men who had roamed Enid's streets for weeks, but never applied at our office; again, quite a number I knew had rooms in Enid, were paying their board, merely waiting until they could be sent directly to the harvest fields. I questioned them as to why they were joining in this feastmaking occasion and they told me that whenever anybody was handing out anything they felt they had a right to get their share. About the best test to be applied to these hungry individuals is work, and the experience

of the representatives of this department throughout the state was that there were not nearly so many broke when they were required to perform a little manual labor for what they ate. In this connection it might be well to mention the fact that different communities adopted different tactics in coping with the situation, and for the most part they were very successful. We held over 1,200 men in Oklahoma City for two weeks, and while there was considerable back door begging, these men gave the authorities comparatively no trouble, because the police force was alert and on the job all the time and broke up the band of agitators that thronged the city."

Mr. Ashton has considerable criticism for the manner in which the city and county officials of Enid criticized the work of the department. He condemns the request that was made of Governor Williams for the militia to assist in getting laboring men and others out of that city. He traced much of the Enid trouble to the fact that the mayor there established a soup house where men could get free meals. This was against his advice, he says, and resulted in hundreds of hoboes going to that city.

Something to Do.

"What has become of the Cheerful Idiot?" asked the Old Fogey. "I haven't heard of him for months." "Why, he is busy with a get-rich-quick scheme," replied the Grouch. "What is it?" asked the Old Fogey. "Someone told him that a queen bee lays 3,000 eggs a day, and he is trying to perfect a cross between a queen bee and a hen."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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Orchids.

Among plants nature's imitations are much more numerous than in the animal kingdom, says a writer in Gas Logic. There are several species of orchids, for instance, bearing popular names which suggest the likeness of the flower to some member of the animal kingdom, among them being the man orchid, the bee orchid, the spider orchid and the lizard orchid.

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—Robert Ingersoll.

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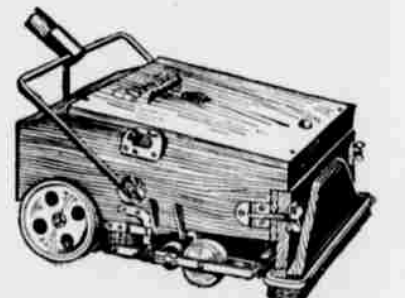
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